

2011/12 Delaware Hunting & Trapping Seasons

Shooting Hours: Deer and small game (except migratory birds, wild turkey, raccoon, opossum & frogs) ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. Raccoons, opossums, and frogs may be hunted at night. The shooting hours for migratory game birds and waterfowl are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.

2011/12 Deer Seasons

Season	Season Date(s)	Bag Limit ¹
Archery ²	September 1, 2011 – January 31, 2012	4
Crossbow ²	September 1, 2011 – January 31, 2012	4
October Antlerless ³	October 1, 17, 21, 22, 24, 28, 29 & 31, 2011	4
October Muzzleloader	October 7 – 15, 2011	4
Youth Day	November 5, 2011	4
November Shotgun	November 11 – 19, 2011	4
December Antlerless ³	December 10 – 17, 2011	4
January Handgun	January 7 – 14, 2012	4
January Shotgun	January 14 – 21, 2012	4
January Muzzleloader	January 23 – 28, 2012	4

¹Hunters may shoot two does and/or two antlerless deer with their license tags. Hunters may purchase additional antlerless tags (unlimited) for \$10.00 each. Hunters may also purchase one Hunters Choice Tag (Delaware residents), an Antlered Deer Tag (non-residents), and/or a Quality Buck Tag (Delaware residents and non-residents) if they want to shoot a buck.

²Hunter orange, 400 square inches, must be worn while archery or crossbow hunting during all deer muzzleloader and/or shotgun seasons.

³Both the October Antlerless and December Antlerless seasons are shotgun seasons.

More Information for Deer Hunters

- Muzzleloaders and handguns may be used during shotgun seasons and may be equipped with scopes. Hunters may not carry both a handgun and shotgun during the shotgun seasons.
- All deer must be registered within 24 hours of being harvested. Deer may be registered by calling 1-855-DEL-HUNT (335-4868) or by going to www.dnrec.delaware.gov/delhunt. **NEW PHONE NUMBER AND WEB ADDRESS**
- Crossbows must have a minimum pull weight of 125 pounds, be manufactured after 1980, and have a mechanical safety. Crossbows may be equipped with a scope.
- Compound, recurve, and longbows must have a minimum pull weight of 35 pounds.

2011/12 Small Game, Turkey, Furbearer, Bullfrog and Turtle Seasons

Species	Season Date(s)	Daily Limit
Eastern Gray Squirrel	September 15, 2011 – February 4, 2012	6
Bobwhite Quail	November 21, 2011 – February 4, 2012	6
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit	November 21, 2011 – February 29, 2012	4

Ring-necked Pheasant (male only)	November 21, 2011 – February 4, 2012	2
Wild Turkey (Youth Season) ¹	April 7, 2012	1
Wild Turkey ¹	April 14 – May 12, 2011	1
Red Fox (chase only) ²	October 1, 2011 – April 30, 2012	0
Red Fox ³	November 1, 2011 – February 29, 2012	No Limit
Raccoon and Virginia Opossum (chase only)	September 1 – October 6, 2011 October 16 ⁴ – October 31, 2011 March 1 – March 31, 2012	0 – Chase Only
Raccoon and Virginia Opossum	November 1 – 10, 2011 November 19 ⁴ , 2011 – February 29, 2012	No Limit
Bullfrog	May 2 – September 30, 2011	24
Snapping Turtle ⁵	June 15, 2011 – May 15, 2012	No Limit
Diamondback Terrapin	September 1, 2011 – November 15, 2011	4

¹Season hours are ½ before sunrise until 1:00 PM.

²From January 1 – April 31, 2011, fox hunting by chase during deer hunting season shall be permissible on private lands only on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday if the owner of the private land has authorized such hunting to occur thereon except no chase is permitted during the October, November and December deer seasons.

³Red foxes may be harvested with the following: longbow; crossbow; shotgun; rimfire rifle or centerfire rifle up to .25 caliber; or a muzzle-loading rifle. However during any deer firearms season, it shall be unlawful to hunt red fox with any firearm that is not also legal for deer hunting.

⁴Season reopens ½ hour after sunset

⁵Minimum length is 8 inches on the curvature of the top of the shell.

More Information for Small Game and Turkey Hunters

- Gray squirrels may be hunted during all seasons with shotguns, .17 and .22 cal. rimfire or pellet rifles with a rifled barrel or muzzleloading rifles up to .36 cal. south of the C&D Canal. Only shotguns may be used north of the C&D Canal. When a squirrel season overlaps with a deer firearms season, squirrel hunters must wear 400 square inches of hunter orange displayed on the head, chest and back.
- Rabbit, Pheasant, and Quail: Hunters must wear at least 400 square inches of hunter orange material displayed on head, chest, and back when hunting during any deer firearm season.
- Raccoons: Raccoons may be hunted and trapped on private land only at any time of the year, except on Sundays, in New Castle or Kent Counties from the southerly boundary of Rt. 380 and east and southeast of the center line of Rt. 13 and Rt. 113, south to the St. Jones River with permission of the landowner.
- Bullfrog: May be taken with either a valid hunting and/or fishing license.
- Hunters wanting to hunt turkeys on public land must enter the preseason lottery and if selected must possess a Division of F&W public land turkey permit while in the field.
- Youth hunters hunting turkeys during the Youth Season may only hunt on privately owned lands

2011/12 Furbearer Trapping Seasons

Species	Season Date(s)	Daily Limit
Muskrat ¹ , mink, otter, raccoon, and Virginia opossum	New Castle County: December 1, 2011 – March 10, 2012 Kent and Sussex Counties: December 15, 2011 – March 15, 2012	No Limit

¹In New Castle County, on embanked meadows, the muskrat season closes on March 20, 2012.

PROPOSED Migratory Game Bird and Waterfowl Seasons

Bag limits and season dates will be finalized later this summer

Species	Season Date(s)	Daily Limit
Mourning Dove	September 1, 2011 - October 1, 2011 October 15, 2011 - October 29, 2011 December 22, 2011 - January 14, 2012	15
American Woodcock	November 21, 2011 - December 10, 2011 December 14 - January 7, 2012	3
Common Snipe	November 21, 2011 - December 10, 2011 December 14 - January 7, 2012	8
Common Crow	June 24, 2011 - March 26, 2012 (Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays only)	No limit
King & Clapper Rails	September 2, 2011 - November 10, 2011	10
Sora & Virginia Rails	September 2, 2011 - November 10, 2011	25
Moorhens and Gallinules	September 2, 2011 - November 10, 2011	15
Canada Geese (Resident)	September 1, 2011 – September 25, 2011	15
Early Teal	September 10, 2011 – September 28, 2011	4
Sea Ducks	September 27, 2011 – January 28, 2012	7
Youth Waterfowl Days	October 15, 2011 December 3, 2011	See Below ¹
Ducks	October 21, 2011 – October 29, 2011 November 21, 2011 – November 26, 2011 December 7, 2011 – January 28, 2012	6
Coots	Same as duck season	15
Mergansers	Same as duck season	5
Snow Goose	October 1, 2011 – January 31, 2012	25
Snow Goose Conservation Order	February 1, 2012 – April 14, 2012	No limit
Canada Geese (Migratory)	November 21, 2011 – December 10, 2011 December 15, 2011 – January 28, 2012	2
Brant	December 2, 2011 – January 28, 2012	2

¹Regular waterfowl daily bag limits apply. Youth must be between the ages of 10 – 15 years old and must be accompanied by a licensed adult 21 or older.

More Information for Migratory Bird Hunters

- All hunters must obtain a Harvest Information Program (HIP) number each year (valid July 1 - June 30) prior to hunting migratory birds. Your HIP number is free of charge and is available by calling 1-855-DEL-HUNT (1-855-335-4868) or visiting www.dnrec.delaware.gov/delhunt. **NEW PHONE NUMBER AND WEB ADDRESS**

- For more detailed information on hunting migratory game birds and/or waterfowl, including species specific bag limits, hunters should review the 2010-2011 Delaware Migratory Game Bird and Season Summary sheet available in late August early September.
- Shooting hours for migratory game birds and waterfowl are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.